



MARJORIE HALE STARTS REIGN AS EL CAMINO COLLEGE GRID QUEEN. Her Majesty is flanked by Princesses Connie Dockery (left) and Ellie Edmonds.—Press Photo

APPEARS TOMORROW

Linguistic Beauty Will Reign as El Camino Grid Queen

Marjorie Hale, 19-year-old language major will reign as El Camino College Grid Queen for 1959.

Miss Hale was selected over 10 other candidates for royalty by the Associated Men Students. The new queen will make her initial appearance at the 12th annual grid dance tomorrow night.

Princesses are Connie Dockery, 18, and Ellie Edmonds, 20.

During halftime at the El Camino-Long Beach Metropolitan Conference football game Saturday night, the royal trio will be honored.

Miss Hale came to El Camino last year from Notre Dame High School. She was a cheerleader and president of cheerleaders, civics and glee clubs, and freshman-class president.

She lives at 209 Ave. G, Redondo Beach.

Miss Dockery was graduated from Mira Costa High, where she was a member of the drill team. She was student body secretary and a yell leader at Powhuska High in Oklahoma, where she attended classes before moving to California.

She plans to complete her education at USC. She lives at 513 Manhattan Ave., Hermosa.

Miss Edmonds attended Los Angeles City College last year. She was homecoming princess at Washington High, and head song queen and yell leader at LACC.

She is an English major in secondary education. She lives at 513 Larson Street, Manhattan Beach.

City to Delve Into Mystery of Paving Machine

Mayor Albert Isen Tuesday requested the Department of Public Works to seek and find an asphalt-paving machine.

Councilman Robert B. Jahn recalled having authorized purchase of the machine, as did Isen. No one else appeared to have heard of it.

The subject came up during discussion of improving Felbar Ave. and 186th St. The city engineer's office wants concrete curbs, while the majority of the City Council believed asphalt would be cheaper. Double bids will be called, setting forth prices for each material.

County Tax Rate Up for 1959-60

Los Angeles County's tax rate for general purposes for 1959-60 is \$2.0859 per \$100 valuation, up \$1.131 from the 1958-59 rate.

California Taxpayers' Association said in its analysis of tax rates in the State's fifty-eight counties.

Amador, Calaveras, Imperial, Sutter, and Trinity counties showed no change in rate. The other 53 counties were split almost evenly between increases and decreases, 27 having higher rates.

Torrance Man Shot

Police were called to the home of John McGee, 3232 Winlock Rd., Tuesday after McGee had shot himself with a .22 handgun.

The victim was found on the front porch with a chest wound. Officers dug the bullet out of the phology of his ear, parked in front. McGee said the shot was accidental.

Girls Sweep Student Jobs

Led by president-elect Diana Worthen, girls swept all but one student office in elections last week at Riviera Elementary School, Torrance.

Other officers included Cindy Warf, vice president; Val Allred, corresponding secretary; Diane Sakai, recording secretary; Katie Mason, girls' athletic commissioner; and Jerri Noeth, historian. Sole male victor was Dale St. John, new boys' athletic commissioner.

Snakes Still Biting in Torrance Heights

Rattlesnakes still are friendly in the Torrance Heights Tract area. Little Michael Saraceni, 7, took one home to 3406 227th Pl. recently.

His mother, Mrs. John Saraceni, thought it was a cute little dickens—not noticing 1½ rattles on the snake's nether end—and tried to stuff it into a box. After more than an hour of struggling, she managed it.

Elder son Johnny, 13, arrived home and removed the snake to inspect it. The rattler responded by biting him.

Navy Property Eyed for Fifth High School

Obtaining 26½ acres of surplus navy land for Torrance school use might save taxpayers \$500,000 to \$700,000, the Torrance Board of Education was told Tuesday night.

The board reaffirmed its intention of seeking the land for possible use for a fifth high school. Surplus land is available to the grantee for a fraction of its market cost. The U.S. government can award the land to government or educational institutions that have high priority.

If a high school were located on the site, no child would have to ride to school, the board was told. Acting to get land now would save money. Until the new school was built, the site could be used to house present crowded Torrance High athletic facilities.

Schools Gain Ground on Rising Birth Rate

The stock still is outstripping school builders, although the schools are gaining ground.

Inside the Press

Are you driving a puzzle?—or puzzled about your driving? In keeping with the policy of The Press to keep you informed on a local level by local experts, we present the second of Dick Dimmette's "Free Wheelin'" column today on Page 4.

Dick's authoritative automotive feature brings the motorist latest data on new cars, driving tricks, laws, money saving, travel, road conditions, and ear saving every Thursday in The Press. His rare dry humor adds spice to a feature no reader will want to miss.

Battle Rages on Airport Lease; Council Favors Bond Proposal

The City Council, meeting Monday night in an adjourned session on airport matters, came out in virtually unanimous support of a revenue bond issue for the facility's expansion.

Councilman J. A. Beasley was most determined of the group in insisting that the bonds be self-liquidating and declared a keen interest in finding out whether or not the airport does sufficient business to pay off a bond issue.

He was joined by Councilman Robert B. Jahn and Mayor Albert Isen in demanding a report from the city manager, city attorney, and other functionaries on feasibility of the undertaking before the council acts to place the issue on a public ballot. The remainder of the council concurred, but the entire body proclaimed its backing of the bond proposal in principle.

Acid comments and high blood pressure marked an extended exchange among the council, airport commissioners, and an attorney for Vegas Airways over changes in the Vegas lease with the city. The Airport Commission unanimously had recommended that the lease be rewritten to include a parcel of first-refusal property northwest of Vegas' current sphere of operations.

An ensuing dispute between council members and George Kurtz, attorney for the airway, centered around boundaries of present operation and whether or not the first-refusal property is indeed what the term implies.

Vegas contends that before the city can lease the plot to another party, it must offer it to Vegas at \$100 a month. The firm is offering

\$150 a month if it were integrated into the present lease. A majority of the council demurred on the ground that the property ultimately might be worth \$2000 a month.

The chief snag is a pending law suit to clarify the meaning of "first refusal." Stanley E. Remelmeyer, city attorney, said the court may decide in any of three ways: that it is a first refusal, that it is an option (which Vegas can exercise at will), or that the entire paragraph is void.

Councilman Nickolas O. Dralle moved that all action be tabled until the court rules. Kurtz violently objected that this might be years away. Dralle thereupon withdrew his motion to permit a substitute by Willys G. Blount: that the council abstain from approving the recommendation of the Airport Commission. Kurtz, controlling obvious dissatisfaction, withdrew all items concerning Vegas from City Council consideration.

In other action, the council approved underground gas storage tanks for Vegas, executed leases with Acme Aircraft, Aero-Care, and John H. Nagel, a farming agreement with Kay Ishibashi, and tabled the subject of air space and clear zones for study.

The council further approved leasing more land to the Hi-Shear Rivet Tool Co. for parking, authorized a deposit for the Powder Puff Derby, OK'd John S. Huff's request to operate an aerial sign-towing business, approved an easement for Edison Co. power lines, and ordered a gate opened to Vegas lease property.



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. XI

1 • 2 •

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1959

NUMBER 49

City Council to Slash Authority of Mayor

Plans to Eliminate Appointive Powers

The City Council brought this week's meeting to an ill-tempered conclusion Tuesday night by ordering an ordinance which would eliminate the Mayor's authority to make appointments to city commissions.

The assault on Mayor Albert Isen was launched by Councilman Willys Blount as adjournment neared. Boiled down, Blount's proposal was to number each seat in all commissions, number the councilmen by drawing lots, then permit each in rotation to fill vacancies as they occur. The appointments would stick without a poll of the council.

Blount declared the plan would eliminate what he termed a patronage system.

Isen—with withering humor but controlling his irritation—replied that the proposal would lead to bitterness and petty politics and do violence to an entire system that is used by every city in the nation. All his appointments have been nonpolitical, he affirmed.

When he selects friends of the councilmen, they vote yes; if he picks an unknown on the basis of ability, they vote no, Isen charged.

"I hope that's not your conscience talking," observed Blount. "My conscience is honest and bright," the Mayor replied.

Councilman James A. Beasley moved to restore the proceedings to a less emotional plane by suggesting that the dignity of the council too often suffers from lauding political lines in public.

Beasley noted he frequently had been asked for suggestions by the Mayor when a vacancy occurred on civic boards and that just as often he had no recommendation.

"He never asked me," Blount retorted.

Isen suggested Blount run for mayor.

Councilman Robert B. Jahn saw justice in the proposed plan by virtue of having to face the voters on a record of good or bad appointments. He felt the threat of the polls would keep political patronage at a minimum.

George A. Bradford started a defense of the Mayor's position, observing that traditionally that office carries greater privileges than that of a councilman. Isen got the wrong idea of what he was driving at and urged the council to do away with the office of mayor entirely and rotate the chair. Bradford termed Isen narrow minded, and when the issue came to a vote, huffily went along with the majority, "because the Mayor expects me to vote yes."

In response to a question, Stanley E. Remelmeyer, city attorney, said the Mayor's appointive powers lie in an ordinance and not in the city charter. Thereby, the council has authority to revoke those powers.

Isen charged it is a conspiracy.



MAYOR ALBERT ISEN EXPLAINS THE MYSTERIES OF MAYOR'S OFFICE. Bewildered Jim Hawkins, incipient Mayor-for-a-day, tries to master the intricacies.—Press Photo.

High School Students to Take Over Government Tuesday

Seventy-nine students from Torrance high schools have been picked to become city officials. Students will function as the Council.

Led by Mayor Jim Hawkins, 17, South High senior, the students will take over all city offices. They will report to the City Hall at 2 p.m. for briefing and then assume their offices.

At 5:30 a reception will be held in the Madrona Elementary School cafeteria for the students, with dinner at 6 p.m. Mayor Albert Isen and other city officials will attend.

Keynote address for the evening will be given by Donald Hitchcock, partner in the Torrance law firm, Mewborn and Hitchcock. Hitchcock was student-body president of Torrance High several years ago.

After the dinner and program, the group will adjourn to City Hall for the Council meeting. Students will function as the Council.

Hawkins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hawkins, of 176 Via los Miradores. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He was Student Council vice-president and athletic commissioner, and was a contestant in the "I Speak for Democracy" contest.

Other student officers will be: COUNCILMEN—Janet Tharp, N.H.S.; Jerry Duncan, N.H.S.; Richard Spurgeon, S.H.S.; Mike Walker, T.H.S.; Bill Tilley, T.H.S.; Carol Johnson, T.H.S. CITY MANAGER—James Armstrong, T.H.S.; Assistant City Manager—Mike Robbins, S.H.S.; Sr. Administrative Assistant—Mason Woolpert, N.H.S.; City Clerk—Nancy Taylor, N.H.S. City Treasurer—Carol Mathlin, T.H.S.; City Attorney—Robbie Hole, S.H.S.; City Engineer—Mike Kimble, N.H.S.; Office Engineer—David Nelson, T.H.S.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY—Carolyn Waddingham, S.H.S.; Fire Chief—Roy Dohner, N.H.S.; Battalion Chief—Jack Singer, T.H.S.; Battalion Chief—John Robinson, S.H.S.; Police Chief—Jerry Carothers, N.H.S.; Assistant Police Chief—Lynn Keller, T.H.S.; Juvenile Officer—Pat Pisciotta, S.H.S.; Recreation Director—Joyce Morris, N.H.S.

ASSISTANT RECREATION DIRECTOR—Linda Williams, T.H.S.; Planning Director—Mitsi Yoshioka, S.H.S.; Building Superintendent—Richard Michna, N.H.S.; Director of Public Works—Don Cannon, T.H.S.; License Inspector—Judy Motoyama, N.H.S.

Health Agency Safeguards Told Lomita League

A portrayal of safeguards through which the county health department contributes to security of the individual was given in a film brought by H. L. Messier, assistant director of the Sanitation Division, to the Lomita Civic League.

Messier explained growth of the health department due to increased population, and to contracts with many cities for health supervision.

D. W. Colfelt, chief sanitarian at the county health center in Torrance, said inspectors are available for consultation between 8 and 9 a.m.

The regular meeting of the league followed the health talks.

Mrs. Edward L. Gibson, R. R. Somers and Mrs. George Thompson, president, were named as a nominating committee. Marshall Pine, immediate past president, accepted the hospitality chairmanship, to succeed M. S. Goodwin, who is moving to Northern California.

William Hazelbaker advised the league to work for a field office in Lomita as one of the conditions of annexation to County Water District No. 13.

City Building Leads County

For the sixth time this year Torrance has been tops in the county in building-permit valuation.

County Building and Safety's Lomita office issued \$3,857,815 worth of permits in September. Norwalk came in second with \$3,379,000.

The county total for unincorporated areas and 32 cities served by the agency was \$25,004,822.